



SOUTHERN  
NEW ENGLAND  
CHAPTER

Soil and Water Conservation Society

SWCS Southern New England Chapter <keara@swcssnec.org>

Fri, Jul 3, 2026 at 6:00 AM



SWCS Southern New England Chapter  
*2026 Conference and Annual Meeting*  
**Thursday July 30th**  
**UConn Storrs | 8 - 4:30**



## Speaker Spotlight



### **Dr. Mia Maltz, UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture**

**Dr. Mia Maltz** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA). Mia is a mycologist and soil microbial ecologist working at the interface of community ecology, biogeography, and mycology. Her work broadly focuses on community responses to soil disturbance, which feedback to influence plant and fungal community structure and ecosystem functioning.

Presentation:

## Ashes to Ashes: Fungal Communities and Ecosystem Functioning

The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens had devastating effects above and belowground in forested montane ecosystems, including the burial and destruction of soil microbes and other biotic propagules. The type and abundance of these propagules, land uses, and legacies in recovering ecosystems are important variables for determining post-disturbance successional trajectories. Soil microorganisms regulate nutrient cycling, interact with many other organisms, and therefore may support successional pathways and complementary ecosystem functions, even in harsh conditions. Historic forest management methods, such as old-growth and clearcut regimes, and locations of small mammal enclosures, may have influenced microbiome resilience in response to this catastrophic eruption.

Dr. Mia Maltz will be presenting on a study that compared the microbes in old-growth and clearcut forests, as well as in locations of historic short-term gopher enclosures (*Thomomys talpoides*), to evaluate community response to forest management practices and to examine vectors for dispersing microbial consortia to the surface of the Pumice Plain. This project informs research and management for belowground processes and microbial functional traits in facilitating succession and ecosystem function.

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### SOIL MATTERS

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#### Event Schedule

**Thursday, July 30th, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST.**

Lunch, coffee breaks and workshops are included in the cost of registration.

*Certificates of attendance will be provided to document six (6) hours of educational content for professional certification renewals.*

Location: **UConn Storrs Campus Storrs CT 06268**

**Information Technology Engineering (ITE) Building**

**No Vehicular Access to ITE** - All vehicles must park at the [South Parking Garage](#) (\$16).

**Parking subsidies available to students at all levels!**

Contact [keara@swcssnec.org](mailto:keara@swcssnec.org) or call (508) 945-3283



## 2026 Registration Rates

Register online via credit/debit card, PayPal or Google Pay.

- General Admission: \$125
- SWCS Member: \$75
- Student General Admission: \$50
- SWCS Student Chapter Member: \$25



Hands-on Soil Classification and Soil Microscopy Workshops are INCLUDED in the cost of registration. Workshop spaces are limited - reserve your spot today!

### 25% off for Groups of 3 or More who Register Together!!

- Group General Admission: \$93.75
- Group Student: \$37.50

### Blue Light Special: \$190

Join the Soil & Water Conservation Society now at the \$115 Conservationist level and benefit immediately by registering for Soil Matters at the \$75 SNEC Member rate! We'll handle the SWCS membership paperwork. *This offer is for first-time SWCS members only.*

**REGISTER NOW!**

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### Exhibitors are Signing Up!

A variety of compelling exhibits will be on display, featuring innovative products that are driving progress in the field of soil and water conservation.

SWCS Southern New England Chapter's mission is to promote, educate and advance the science of soil, water and related resources conservation. We seek vendors of products and services that can help deliver solutions.

- Exhibitor Registration: \$500
  - Includes one 6ft table with drape and registration for one (1) person
- Non-Profit Exhibitor: \$250
- Additional Exhibit Staff: \$75 (2 max)

To sign up or ask about **opportunities for more active participation**, please contact Christine Odiaga at (508) 945-3283 or [treasurer@secssnec.org](mailto:treasurer@secssnec.org).

**SOIL MATTERS**

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To **REGISTER**, please go to <https://snec2026.eventbrite.com/>. For **SOIL MATTERS** updates, go to <https://swcssnec.org/snec2026/> or contact [keara@swcssnec.org](mailto:keara@swcssnec.org).